

HAR  
SCOWCROFT  
L.L.

SCHEEL REJECTS U.S.  
CRITICISM THAT FRG  
DISASSOCIATED ITSELF  
FROM U.S. POLICY IN M.E.

253A

SCHEEL 10-23

NIGHT LD  
WITH DISCORD

BONN (UPI) -- FOREIGN MINISTER WALTER SCHEEL SUNDAY REJECTED AMERICAN CRITICISM THAT WEST GERMANY DISASSOCIATED ITSELF FROM U.S. POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST DURING THE RECENT ARAB-ISRAELI CRISIS.

"I WOULD LIKE TO SAY WHY THIS IS NOT THE CASE," SCHEEL SAID IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW. "IN THIS TIME OF CRISIS NOTHING SHOULD BE DONE TO POUR SOMETHING INTO THE FIRE."

EARLIER, WEST BERLIN MAYOR KLAUS SCHUETZ DEFENDED THE U.S. POLICY. "IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO COMBINE MILITARY NEUTRALITY WITH HELPING FRIENDS IN NEED," THE MAYOR SAID IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE NEWSPAPER MORGENPOST.

"I MEAN THAT IT WAS EXACTLY THE UNITED STATES THAT ACTED WITH RESPONSIBILITY RECENTLY IN THE MIDDLE EAST," SAID SCHUETZ. "WE ALL SHOULD HEARTILY THANK IT FOR THAN."

SCHEEL'S REMARK APPARENTLY WAS A REPLY TO BITTER WORDS VOICED BY STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ROBERT J. MCCLOSKEY FRIDAY AT WEST GERMANY'S DEMAND THE UNITED STATES STOP RESUPPLYING ISRAEL FROM U.S. ARMY DEPOTS IN WEST GERMANY SO IT COULD PRESERVE ITS "STRICT NEUTRALITY" IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT.

"IN THIS CONFLICT, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF (WEST) GERMANY IS IN A DIFFICULT POSITION. WE HAVE TO DO WITH THE BELLIGERENTS AND OUR PARTNERS," SCHEEL SAID.

SCHEEL SAID THAT ON THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM, "WE WANT TO PURSUE A BALANCED POLICY."

RETURNING TO THE WEST GERMAN-AMERICAN DISPUTE OVER THE SHIPMENT OF AMERICAN ARMS TO ISRAEL FROM U.S. BASES IN WEST GERMANY, SCHEEL SAID: "AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, I AM CONVINCED THAT WE ARE GOING TO HAVE REASONABLE TALKS WITH THE AMERICANS THAT WE TAKE A NEUTRAL POSITION."

IN AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO U.S. ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS' WARNINGS THAT THE UNITED STATES MIGHT HAVE TO RECONSIDER ITS MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH BONN, SCHEEL SAID, "THERE ARE ALSO PEOPLE IN THE U.S. WHO IN SUCH A DIFFICULT SITUATION DO SAY THINGS WHICH THEY WOULD NOT SAY AFTER ANOTHER TWO DAYS."